IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-8, 10, and 11 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 12-14, and 17-18 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing system outputting output data to which copyright data have been attached, comprising:~~

~~a copyright management device comprising copyright management means for managing information on copyright of said output data; and~~

~~an information processing device comprising output process means for selectively utilizing the information obtained from said copyright data or said copyright management device to execute output processing of said output data~~ A data output system including a copyright management apparatus and a data output processing apparatus which are capable of communicating via a network, wherein:

said copyright management apparatus comprises:

copyright data management means for storing copyright data related to output data in a database and managing the copyrighted data, said copyright data including information related to an effective limit date and an output condition; and

wherein said output processing apparatus comprises:

first copyright data obtaining means for obtaining first copyright data attached to said output data;

determination means for determining whether or not second copyright data

2

related to said output data should be obtained from said copyright management apparatus in accordance with the information related to the effective limit date included in the obtained first copyright data;

second copyright data obtaining means for obtaining second copyright data from said copyright management apparatus in accordance with a determination result by said determination means;

output processing means for executing output processing of said output data by utilizing one of (i) an output condition included in said second copyright data obtained by said second copyright data obtaining means and (ii) the output condition included in said first copyright data obtained by said first copyright data obtaining means, in accordance with the determination result by said determination means.

2.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing device being capable of communicating with a copyright management device for managing information on copyright of output data, comprising:~~

~~selection means for selecting anyone of either copyright data attached to said output data or information obtained from said copyright management device; and~~

~~output process means for executing output processing of said output data utilizing the information selected by said selection means~~ An information processing apparatus capable of communicating output data via a network comprising;

3

first copyright data obtaining means for obtaining first copyright data attached to said output data, said copyright data including information related to an effective limit date and an output condition;

determination means for determining whether or not second copyright data related to said output data should be obtained from a copyright management apparatus in accordance with the information related to the effective limit date included in the obtained first copyright data;

second copyright data obtaining means for obtaining said second copyright data from the copyright management apparatus in accordance with a determination result of said determination means; and

output processing means for executing output processing of said output data by utilizing one of (i) an output condition included in said second copyright data obtained by said second copyright data obtaining means, and (ii) the output condition included in said first copyright data obtained by said first copyright data obtaining means, in accordance with the determination result of said determination means.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The information processing device according to Claim 11, wherein said time information is anyone of a final updated date and an effective

4

~~limit date~~ An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the information related to the effective limit date indicates a date when a predetermined period elapsed from a final updated date of said copyright data.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The information processing device according to Claim 9, wherein said selection means select said copyright data in case that the information is not able to be obtained from said copyright management device~~ An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said output processing means executes the output processing of said output data by utilizing the output condition included in said first copyright data if said second copyright data cannot be obtained by said second copyright data obtaining means.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The information processing device according to Claim 10, further comprising:~~

~~output log preparation means for preparing output logs based on compensation information being included in said copyright data~~ An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said copyright data further includes compensation information, and said apparatus further comprises output log preparation means for preparing an output log on the basis of the compensation information.

15. (Original) The information processing device according to Claim 14, wherein said compensation information is points that correspond to said output process,

5

further comprising:

currency conversion means for converting said points into currency units,

wherein said output log preparation means convert said points into currency units by said

currency conversion means to prepare the output logs.

16. (Original) The information processing device according to Claim 14,

further comprising:

output log management means for summing up and analyzing the output logs

prepared by said output log preparation means.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A control method for controlling an information~~

~~processing device being capable of communicating with a copyright management device~~

~~that manages information on copyright of said output data, comprising:~~

~~a selection step for selecting anyone of either copyright data attached to said~~

~~output data or information obtained from said copyright management device; and~~

~~an output processing step for executing output processing of said output data~~

~~utilizing the information selected by said selection step~~ An information processing

apparatus capable of communicating output data via a network, said method comprising:

a first copyright data obtaining step of obtaining first copyright data attached to

said output data, said copyright data including information related to an effective limit date

and an output condition;

a determination step of determining whether or not a second copyright data

related to said output data should be obtaining from a copyright management apparatus in

6

accordance with the information related to the effective limit date included in the obtained first copyright data;

a second copyright data obtaining step of obtaining said second copyright data from said copyright management apparatus in accordance with a determination result of said determination step; and

an output processing step of executing output processing of said output data by utilizing one of (i) an output condition included in said second copyright data obtained in said second copyright data obtaining step, and (ii) the output condition included in said first copyright data obtained in said first copyright data obtaining step in accordance with the determination result of said determination step.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Memory media having stored programs for controlling an information processing device being capable of communicating with a copyright management device that manages information on copyright of output data, comprising:~~

~~a selection procedure for selecting anyone of either copyright data attached to said output data or information obtained from said copyright management device; and~~

~~programs comprising an output processing procedure for executing output processing of said output data utilizing information selected by said selection procedure~~ A memory medium storing a computer-readable program for controlling an information processing apparatus capable of communicating output data via a network using a method comprising:

a first copyright data obtaining step of obtaining first copyright data attached to

7

said output data, said copyright data including information related to an effective limit date and an output condition;

a determination step of determining whether or not second copyright data related to said output data should be obtained from a copyright management apparatus in accordance with the information related to the effective limit date included in the obtained first copyright data;

a second copyright data obtaining step of obtaining said second copyright data from said copyright management apparatus in accordance with a determination result of said determination step; and

an output processing step of executing output processing of said output data by utilizing one of (i) an output condition included in said second copyright data obtained in said second copyright data obtaining step, and (ii) the output condition included in said first copyright data obtained in said first copyright data obtaining step, in accordance with the determination result of said determination step.